

Commercial Feed Regulations Fact Sheet

This fact sheet contains information about the feed regulations administered by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA).

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) regulates the distribution of commercial animal feed which includes livestock feed, poultry feed, fish feed, pet food and specialty pet food. To accomplish this role, WSDA:

- reviews labels of feed for animal production (livestock, poultry, fish etc.) at manufacturing and distribution facilities;
- reviews labels of pet food and specialty pet food submitted by registrants as part of the registration process;
- collects samples of commercial animal feeds to verify guaranteed analysis on the labels and test for contaminants when there is cause for concern;
- responds to complaints involving commercial feed distribution;
- works in cooperation with the Food and Drug Administration to monitor and educate feed producers about the federal good manufacturing practice regulations and other rules like those intended to prevent the spread of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease); and,
- has formed a Feed Advisory Committee consisting of interested parties and feed industry representatives to assist the department in administration of the feed program.

Definition of Commercial Feed

“Commercial Feed”, as defined in RCW15.53.901(2), includes all materials that are distributed or intended for distribution for use as animal feed or for mixing in feed, unless such materials are specifically exempted. Both the Commercial Feed Law, Chapter 15.53.901(2) RCW, and Commercial Feed Rules, WAC 16-250-010 and WAC 16-252-010, provide exemptions for some specific feed ingredients.

Feed Ingredients Exempted from the Definition of “Commercial Feed”:

1. Unmixed whole seeds and physically altered entire unmixed seeds when such seeds are not chemically changed or adulterated. Examples are unmixed whole: wheat, barley, corn, oats, buckwheat, milo, rye, flaxseed, kafir, triticale, peas, cottonseed and other unmixed whole seeds or grains. Unmixed whole seeds and grains may be physically altered - rolled, crimped, cracked, ground, etc.- and still be exempt as long as all parts of the seed or grain are retained in the physically altered product.
2. Raw meat, loose salt, hay, straw, stover, silage, cobs, husks and hulls are exempt when unground and when such commodities are not mixed or intermixed with other materials and are not adulterated.

Examples of Materials Classified as Commercial Feed:

- Plant Protein Products: soybean meal; canola meal; cottonseed meal; pea by-products; yeast products.
- Animal Protein Products: meat & bone meal, animal by-product meal, blood meal, fish meal, poultry meal, hydrolyzed feather meal, milk and whey products.
- Processed Grain By-products: wheat mill run, distillers dried grains, corn gluten meal, brewers dried grains, malt sprouts, wheat middlings, bran products.
- Molasses Products: beet & cane molasses, molasses distillers dried solubles.
- Roughage Products: soybean hulls & millrun, cottonseed hulls, beet pulp.
- Forage Products: dehydrated alfalfa meal, ground alfalfa hay, ground grass.
- Screenings, Chaff and Dust: wheat, corn, barley, cottonseed, oats, sorghum, rice.
- Non-protein Nitrogen Supplements: urea, diammonium phosphate, amino acids.
- Fat and Oil Products: animal, vegetable, blends, restaurant grease/"yellow grease".
- Mineral Supplements: mineral blocks, premixes, limestone, defluorinated phosphate.
- Vitamin Supplements: individual, multiple vitamins or vitamin precursor mixes.
- Fermentation Products: liquid and dry materials obtained from fermentation of grains, molasses, whey and microorganisms such as Aspergillus, Lactobacillus, Penicillium, etc.
- Special Purpose Ingredients: flavors, extracts, rumen by-pass, probiotics.
- Feeds: any mix of whole or processed grains, concentrates, and complete feeds for all species to include customer formula and labeled feeds, pet food (cat and dog food), specialty pet food (hamsters, canaries, psittacine birds, mynahs, finches, tropical fish, goldfish, snakes, and turtles).

The above examples are representative of some of the most common products classified as commercial feed. For classification of any ingredients that are not listed, please contact WSDA's feed registration staff at (360) 902-2025 or by email at feedreg@agr.wa.gov.

Commercial Feed License Requirements

A Commercial Feed License is required annually from WSDA if one or more of the following applies:

1. you are an initial distributor of a commercial feed in or into the state;
2. you manufacture a commercial feed for distribution in or into the state; and/or,
3. your name appears as the responsible party on a commercial feed label to be distributed in or into the state.

Note: A Washington State Commercial Feed License is not required for distribution of exempted feed materials (see "Ingredients exempted..." above), pet food or specialty pet food. Distribution of pet food and specialty pet food in the state of Washington requires product label registration (see below).

Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food Label Registration Requirements

Labels of pet food* and specialty pet food**, including pet treats, must be registered with WSDA annually before distribution in Washington State. The application for registration of pet food and specialty pet food must be completed and submitted along with copies of labels and the registration fees (\$11.00 per product for packages weighing 10 pounds or more and \$45.00 per product for packages weighing less than 10 pounds). Application for renewal of registration is due July 1st of each year. A penalty fee of ten dollars per product will be added to the registration fees if a registration renewal application is not filed prior to July 15th of each year.

- Pet food* – A commercial feed prepared and distributed for consumption by domesticated dogs or cats, including pet treats.
- Specialty pet food** – a commercial feed prepared and distributed for consumption by specialty pets. Specialty pets are domesticated animal pets normally maintained in a cage or tank, such as, but not limited to, gerbils, hamsters, canaries, psittacine birds, mynahs, finches, tropical fish, goldfish, snakes, and turtles.

Tonnage Report and Inspection Fee Payment Requirements

The initial distributor of a commercial feed in or into the state of Washington is responsible for submitting a tonnage report and paying the inspection fee unless the commercial feed is distributed to an “exempt buyer.” An exempt buyer is defined as a licensee who has agreed to be responsible for reporting tonnage and paying inspection fees for **all** commercial feeds they distribute. The department maintains a list of all exempt buyers and will make the list available upon request.

For further information, please contact:

*Washington State Department of Agriculture
Pesticide Management Division
P. O. Box 42589, Olympia, WA 98502-2589
(360) 902-2025/Fax (360) 902-2093
feedreg@agr.wa.gov*